

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of selecting a media proxy for transmitting a media stream along a path comprising,

(a) receiving a path setup request which specifies data endpoints for the path,

(b) traversing a nodular network model in a predetermined pattern dependent on the specified media endpoints,

(c) checking for a list of media proxies ~~proxy~~ at each node traversed during traversal of the model, a plurality of media proxies being linked to at least one node in the nodular network model, the plurality of media proxies being linked to the node in a list, and

(d) determining the availability of at least one of the media proxies;

~~[[d]]~~(e) selecting a media proxy from the list found during traversal as the said proxy for the path using a predetermined selection policy.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~a plurality of media proxies are linked to a node in a~~ the list ordered orders the media proxies linked to the node by preference and wherein the method further includes ~~determining the availability of a selected proxy and selecting the next proxy in the ordered list if the selected proxy is unavailable.~~

3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein ~~a plurality of proxies are linked to a node in a~~ the list forming includes a pool of proxies of equal preference and wherein the method further includes ~~determining the availability of the proxies and selecting a proxy in the pool using a predetermined strategy.~~

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the said predetermined strategy is selected from a group containing random and round-robin strategies.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the linked media proxy includes a local designation which indicates whether the media proxy should be used only for paths between endpoints in a particular subset of the whole network, and wherein the step of selecting the media proxy includes checking the local designation and if the media proxy is designated as local, determining if the specified media endpoints fall within the said subset of the network.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the path setup request is received by a call agent.
7. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein the network model is stored within the call agent.
8. (New) A method according to claim 6, wherein the network model is stored separately from the call agent.
9. (New) A method according to claim 7, wherein the model traversal and selection steps are carried out by the call agent.
10. (New) A method according to claim 8, wherein the model traversal and selection steps are carried out by the call agent.
11. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the nodular network model is stored as a tree hierarchy.
12. (New) A call agent arranged to setup a media path between data endpoints in networks separated by network address translation and further arranged to read a model of the network formed as a plurality of nodes which has a plurality of media proxies linked to at least one of the nodes in a list, to receive a path setup request which specifies media endpoints for the path, to read the model and traverse the network model in a predetermined pattern dependent on the specified media endpoints, to check for a list of media proxies at each node traversed during traversal of the model, determine the availability of the media

proxy and to select a media proxy from the list found during traversal as the said proxy for the path.

13. (New) An agent according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of media proxies are linked to the node in a list ordered by preference and wherein the agent is further arranged to select the next proxy in the ordered list if the selected media proxy is unavailable.

14. (New) An agent according to claim 12 wherein a plurality of proxies are linked to a node in a list forming a pool of proxies of equal preference and wherein the agent is further arranged to determine the availability of the proxies and to select a proxy in the pool according to a predetermined strategy.

15. (New) An agent according to claim 12, wherein each media proxy includes a local designation which indicates whether the media proxy should be used only for paths between endpoints in a particular subset of the whole network, and wherein the agent is arranged to check the local designation during media proxy selection and if the proxy is designated as local, to determine if the specified media endpoints fall within the said subset of the network.

16. (New) A computer program adapted to execute on a call agent which is arranged to setup a media path between data endpoints in networks separated by network address translation and during execution to cause the agent to read a model of the network formed as a plurality of nodes which has a plurality of media proxies linked to at least one of the nodes in a list, to receive a path setup request which specifies media endpoints for the path, to read the model and traverse the network model in a predetermined pattern dependent on the specified media endpoints, to check for a list of media proxies at each node traversed during traversal of the model, to determine the availability for at least one media proxy and to select a media proxy from the list found during traversal as the said proxy for the path.

17. (New) A call agent arranged to setup a media path between media endpoints in networks separated by a boundary which blocks media streams and further arranged to read a model of the network formed as a list of nodes and a default global pool of media proxies which are arranged to permit traversal of the boundary by the media stream and which are associated in a list with the model, to receive a media path setup request which specifies media endpoints for the path, to read the model and traverse the network model in a predetermined pattern dependent on the specified media endpoints, to check for a linked media proxy at each node traversed during traversal of the model, and to select a media proxy as the said proxy for the path from the default global pool if no proxies are found during traversal of the model.